

and after school if they need it to learn more. In other words, let's make a commitment that our elementary and high school education will be world-class for everybody just like college education is. That's my commitment, and that's his.

And so, I have never given a speech in a cool room in North Carolina. [Laughter] And I tell you, you got my blood running strong. You make me feel good. I can't wait to go home and tell about it. But don't you forget, this good man and his family, here before you on their 21st anniversary, defied all the conventional wisdom along with the good people that ran in the primary with him, and they said, "We can do better. Just because America's doing well, just because North Carolina's doing well, we have to think about the long-term challenges."

Folks, when times are good, that's the time to repair the house; that's the time to prepare for the future; that's the time to build on the confidence you have. You stay with him and bring him home to the United States Senate, and we'll build a stronger America together for the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:35 p.m. in the Governor W. Kerr Scott Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker of North Carolina; Lynda McCulloch, Education Commissioner; State Representative Dan Blue; Jennette Hyde, former Ambassador to Barbados, and her husband Wallace; Barbara Allen, chair, State Democratic Party; Sheriff John Baker of Wake County; Gov. James B. Hunt of North Carolina; Margaret Rose Sanford, wife of former Gov. Terry Sanford; and Elizabeth Edwards, wife of candidate John Edwards.

### Remarks to an Overflow Crowd in Raleigh

July 30, 1998

Thank you. We wanted to come by and thank you. I know that you had to come here; you didn't get in the other room; you had to listen; you couldn't see. But if it's any consolation, you are much, much cooler than anybody in that other room is right now.

And I just want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for being so good to me

and the First Lady and the Vice President over the last 5½ years, for the support that I've gotten from people from North Carolina, especially from my number one North Carolinian, Erskine Bowles, who has been a wonderful Chief of Staff.

I want to thank you for your commitment to John Edwards. And I want to ask you—you know, you heard us talking in the speeches about his proposal today to Senator Faircloth that they give up the ads and just spend all their money paying for honest conversations with the people of North Carolina. I think that's a good idea.

You just think about how it would change politics in America forever if North Carolina had an election in which there were no 30-second attack ads and the two candidates sat down around a table or maybe had 20 or 30 or 50 citizens sitting with them, and honestly discussed the issues on television where everybody could be a part of it, write them, tell them what they thought, decide what they agree with, what they disagree with. Think about it. It would recreate old-fashioned citizenship again.

Now, if you like that, don't let it be one letter in one statement in one day. Go out tomorrow and talk about it and the next day and talk to your friends and neighbors about it and get a little ground swell built up about it, because I can tell you that I think that this candidate will be much more eager to do this than his opponent. But it's the right thing to do for the folks.

So stay with us; keep working. We're going to keep moving this country forward. Remember the last thing I said in there—times are good now, and I'm grateful for that. But that's not a time to sit on your laurels and sit back and congratulate yourself. When America is going into a new century and things are changing as they are, we should use the confidence of these good times to take on those big long-term challenges. And that's what you have to think about with these elections coming up.

Who do you really want to be dealing with the challenges of saving Social Security and Medicare for the 21st century? Who do you really trust to do more to build the best public schools in America for all of our children, without regard to their income, their race,

or their region of the country? Who do you believe is more likely to get quality, affordable health care for all Americans, and say to the HMO's and to the managed care people, "We want managed care, but we don't want accountants making decisions doctors should make. We want people to get in the emergency room, to see the specialists, to have quality health care when they need it." The answer is John Edwards. And I'm honored to be in North Carolina with him to-night.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 p.m. in the Governor W. Kerr Scott Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on the Arab  
League Boycott of Israel**  
*July 30, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the request contained in section 540 of Public Law 105-118, Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998, I submit to you the attached report providing information on steps taken by the United States Government to bring about an end to the Arab League boycott of Israel and to expand the process of normalizing ties between Israel and the Arab League countries.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
July 30, 1998.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 31.

**Remarks on the National Economy  
and an Exchange With Reporters**  
*July 31, 1998*

**The President.** Good morning. I want to thank the Vice President, Mr. Bowles, and our economic team for joining us today to talk about the continuing strength of our economy and what we have to do to make it stronger as we move toward a new century.

Five and a half years ago, we set a new strategy for the new economy, founded on fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people. Today our economy is the strongest in a generation. While the latest economic report shows that growth in the second quarter of 1998 was more moderate than the truly remarkable first quarter, it shows that our economy continues to enjoy steady growth. So far this year, economic growth has averaged 3.5 percent. This is growth the right way, led by business investment and built on a firm foundation of fiscal discipline.

We've also learned today that since I took office the private sector of our economy has grown by nearly 4 percent, while we have reduced the Federal Government to its smallest size in 35 years. Wages are rising. Investment and consumer confidence remain high. Unemployment and inflation remain low. Prosperity and opportunity abound for the American people.

In the long run, we can keep our economy on its strong and prosperous course. Our economic foundation is solid. Our strategy is sound. Still, we know from events that, more than ever, the challenges of the global marketplace demand that we press forward with the comprehensive strategy we began 6 years ago.

First, we have to maintain our fiscal discipline. This week marks the fifth anniversary of the 1993 economic plan that charted our course to a balanced budget and reduced the deficit by over 90 percent by the time we signed the Balanced Budget Act in 1997. This fiscal discipline has had a powerful, positive impact, driving interest rates down, pushing investment to historic levels, creating a virtuous cycle of economic activity that has helped cut the deficit even further. We must hold a steady course, and we should not spend a penny of the surplus until we have saved Social Security first. Fiscal discipline helped to build this strong economy; fiscal recklessness could undermine it dramatically. We must use these good times to honor our parents and the next generation by saving Social Security first.

Second, we must continue to invest in the American people. Five years ago I said we had to close two gaps, one in the budget and